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Kentucky Field Office



News Release

Cooperating with Kentucky Department of Agriculture
PO Box 1120 · Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
(502) 582-5293 · (502) 582-5114 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/ky

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KENTUCKY FARMERS EXPECT LARGER WINTER WHEAT CROP

Kentucky farmers expect to produce 27.9 million bushels of **winter wheat** according to the Kentucky Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The forecast was based on crop conditions as of June 1 and represented a 3 percent increase in production from the May estimate. The expected 2011 crop will be up 69 percent from 2010. Yield was forecast at 68 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the May estimate and 2 bushels above the 2010 crop. Farmers intend to harvest 410,000 acres for grain, unchanged from May but 160,000 acres above the 2010 harvested acreage. Of the 540,000 acres of wheat seeded in the fall of 2010, the 130,000 acres not harvested for grain were used as plow down prior to setting tobacco or harvested as hay or silage.

Temperatures and rainfall were mostly above normal during May. Major concerns include the flood damage and its affect on yield and test weight. Condition of the crop as of May 29 was 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 57 percent good and 15 percent excellent. Winter wheat harvest is expected to begin mid-June.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.45 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the May 1 forecast but 2 percent below 2010. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield was forecast at 45.3 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from last month but 1.5 bushels less than last year. Expected grain area totals 32.0 million acres, unchanged from May 1.

LELAND E. BROWN
Director